Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AID, RO

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY FOR AID PROCUREMENT

REF: BUCHAREST 2174; BUCHAREST 3382

1. THE BASIC RULES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ELIGIBLE SOURCES OF AID PROCUREMENT WERE SET FORTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 604 (A) OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 IN A DETERMINATION BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON OCTOBER 18, 1961. AFTER DISCUSSING THE RULES GOVERNING NON-US PROCUREMENT, THE DETERMINATION STATED THAT QUOTE PROCUREMENT OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES SHALL BE FROM FREE WORLD SOURCES, IN ANY CASE. UNQUOTE. ALTHOUGH STATUTE DOES NOT PROHIBIT PROCUREMENT FROM NON-FREE WORLD SOURCES, WE BELIEVE THAT G GENERAL THRUST OF LAW - PARTICULARLY SECTION 601, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCOURAGEMENT OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND PRIVATE PARTICIPATION,

WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, STRENGTHENING OF FREE LABOR UNIONS, AND USE OF PRIVATE TRADE CHANNELS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE ARGUES AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE THIS DETERMINATION BY PLACING ROMANIA ON THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES. MODIFICATION OF THIS DETERMINATION WOULD REQUIRE PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER AND MIGHT RAISE UNDESIRABLE QUESTIONS. WE ARE NOT INCLINED THEREFORE TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE THIS PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION CHANGED TO INCLUDE ROMANIA AT THIS TIME.

2. DEPARTMENT/AID SUGGESTS YOU ADVISE STANCIU THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO MODIFY LIST AT THIS TIME. YOU MAY NOTE THAT ROMANIA DOES HAVE MANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL IN US MARKET WHICH WILL BE ENHANCED BY PASSAGE OF TRADE AGREEMENT AND MFN. OFFSHORE COMMODITY PROCUREMENT AMOUNTS TO A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF AID PROCUREMENT - EIGHT PERCENT OR 45 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1974 - WHICH WOULD IN ANY CASE BE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE TO ROMANIA. INGERSOLL

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